

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 /068 W

----- 101820

R 131125Z NOV 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7617

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 10759

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, ETRN

SUBJECT: PROJECTED INDO-PAK CIVIL AIR AND TRADE TALKS

REF: ISLAMABAD 10486

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) ABDUL SATTAR CONFIRMED TO POL COUNSELOR THAT INDO-PAK CIVIL AIR TALKS WOULD BEGIN IN ISLAMABAD NOVEMBER 18. ACCORDING SATTAR, GOP SIDE WOULD BE LED BY MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) FAZLE MUQUEEM KHAN, WHO AS DEFENSE SECRETARY IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE AT SECRETARIAL LEVEL FOR CIVIL AVIATION. GOP HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT INDIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY N. SEHGAL, SECRETARY FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM, AND WOULD INCLUDE MEA LEGAL ADVISOR AND MEA JOINT SECRETARY (PAKISTAN) ASHOK CHIB. BOTH TEAMS WOULD BE MADE UP PRINCIPALLY OF LEGAL AND CIVIL AIR EXPERTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES, SO SATTAR SAID, ONLY ON THE SIDELINES.

2. SATTAR SAID HE THOUGHT TALKS WOULD NOT BE EASY. HE

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NOTED THAT THE UNSETTLED PROBLEM OF THE JANUARY 1971

"HIJACKING" OF AN INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION PLANE FROM KASHMIR TO LAHORE(WHERE IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DESTROYED, LEADING THE GOI TO BAN PIA OVERFLIGHTS) INVOLVED MANY HIGHLY COMPLICATED AND FAR-REACHING LEGAL ISSUES WHICH THE TWO SIDES MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SOLVE AT NEXT WEEK'S SESSION. HE ALSO SAID THAT NO UNDERSTANDING HAD YET BEEN REACHED AS TO WHETHER THIS PROBLEM AND THE QUESTIONS OF RESUMPTION OF AIR LINKS AND OVERFLIGHTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED SEQUENTIALLY OR BY SIMULTANEOUS DISCUSSIONS BY SEPARATE SUBCOMMITTEES. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE LEADERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS AS THE TALKS GOT UNDERWAY. SATTAR STRESSED THROUGHOUT THAT THE GOP WANTED THE TALKS TO SUCCEED, BUT

THAT THE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THE 1971 INCIDENT MIGHT SIMPLY PROVE TOO KNOTTY EITHER TO DEAL WITH SUCCESSFULLY OR TO SHELVE (WHILE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE OTHER ISSUES) AT THE FORTH-

COMING MEETING.

3. SATTAR SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WAS UNLIKELY IN ANY EVENT THAT AIR LINKS WOULD SOON BE RESUMED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT PIA WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO ANY ARRANGEMENT TO PEOLIT AIR INDIA TO STOP IN KARACHI ENROUTE INDIA TO THE WEST SINCE THIS WOULD DRAW OFF BUSINESS FROM THE PAKISTANIS WITHOUT ADEQUATE COMPENSATION. (PIA HAS FEW FLIGHTS TO THE EAST TO WHICH IT COULD EXPECT TO DIVERT PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TO OR FROM INDIA). AS FOR TRAFFIC BETWEEN NORTHERN PAKISTAN AND DELHI, SATTAR SAID THAT I WAS UNLIKELY THAT EITHER PIA OR THE INDIANS WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT VOLUME ON SUCH ROUTES TO COMMERCIALLY WARRANT RESUMING THE FLIGHTS WHICH HAD BEEN CUT OFF SINCES 1965.

RM SATTAR SAID THAT THE GOP TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE OPENING OF TALKS WITH INDIA ON TRADE, SCHEDEDULED TO BEGIN THE SUBSEQUENT WEEK IN NEW DELHI, WOULD NOT DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CIVIL AIR DISCUSSIONS HERE. HE DESCRIBED THESE TALKS AS EXPLORATORY. THE GOP DELEGATION, HE SAID, WOULD BE HEADED BY COMMERCE SECRETARY EJAZ AHMED NAIK. HE

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THOUGHT IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD ACCOMPANY THE GROUP-- MAINLY TO COMPRISE TRADE EXPERTS--TO INDIA, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR KREISBERG AT THAT TIME.

BYROADE

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